

FBIS 5030-88  
14 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
FROM: Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
SUBJECT: TCN Issues

*Bob,*

1. As you requested, here is a recap of issues discussed in our meeting with the TCN's. I'm also enclosing a copy of the petition on pay that was discussed.

2. In addition to pay, the major issues that were raised include:

--Obtaining PRA status after 15 years government service - as discussed in HK;

--Non-PRA monitors' children, totally US educated, cannot remain in the US after college, do not have the language skills to return to their country of birth, and become essentially "stateless". I'm enclosing a letter written by Mr. Ku on the subject of his childrens' plight. We are not going to talk to the consulate, as this is an INS issue that we hope someone can address from the Washington end.

--Non-PRA monitors' children are not eligible for scholarships to US universities. As Mr. Ku mentions in the letter, his son has top SAT scores and is among 300 candidates for a White House Scholarship (of which there are 150 given) - as a non-citizen, non-PRA, however, he is not eligible. Is there any possibility of TCN's being eligible for scholarships from our organization fund? How would they go about applying?

--Monitors' children only get educational travel if they attend college in US -- amend travel agreements?

--TCN retirees have no group health insurance plan - individual insurance is very expensive. This is a long-standing problem - the partial solution reached in Dec 82 was for FBIS to pay up to \$1573/year toward a retiree's family health coverage (equivalent to that paid for staff) - but with policies like the Mutual of Omaha conversion plan that costs \$10,000/year, that doesn't help much.

--Question of Medicare eligibility is apparently still unresolved - OGC is researching per a 24 Oct 88 message from admin.

--Home leave - TCN's can't take time off on island as they're saving all their annual leave for one trip home every 2 years - should earn some home leave as American staff do.

-- R&R - none for TCN's

--Separate maintenance allowance - who decides when it should be authorized? In addition to the one case you heard mentioned we have another request we'll be sending to admin for SMA for mother and son who went back to Taiwan. All tied in with the problems of the lack of PRA status and children's problems, this monitor sent his son back to Taiwan to school (1st grade) so he will have a Chinese education and future in Taiwan - we will probably end up losing the monitor.

--Some TCN's would like the option to contribute to the Thrift Plan (this is under review by Retirement Division, but it's taking a very long time).

3. On the pay issue, at the current exchange rate (Y123 = \$1) - our MLC Japanese translator trainee, who has been here 6 months, is making the equivalent of \$44,000/year, while a TCN would start at a salary of \$15,917 (85% of a GS7), with total pay of about \$18,000 after post differential and allowance are added in.

4. As I mentioned to you, after we get our personal services allotment I will be sending in a pay raise recommendation, as discussed with OPS at the Bureau Chiefs' Conference.

5. Enjoyed your visit and was glad you got a chance to spend some time at the bureau. Hope  let you beat him on the golf course! I'll send pictures of the helicopter ride if they come out.

*Regards,*

